

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-305

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Hitt Wash Riparian Habitat Exclosure

Region and Game Management Unit: Region III, GMU 17A

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Prescott (Not Formulated)

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES ☐ **NO** ☒

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☒

If Yes, was it funded? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Barb wire fence livestock exclosure

Brief Project Summary:

This fencing project has been proposed for the K Four Allotment to protect the existing riparian habitat below Round Valley Spring (existing small dam); 1.5 miles of four strand barbed wire fence to FS wildlife friendly specifications. The area is key habitat for a FS Sensitive Species the lowland leopard frog.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule deer 40%, elk 30%, mountain lion 10%, black bear 10%, javelina 10%

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: March 1, 2015

Project End Date: June 30, 2017
(Or Sooner)

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ **N/A** ☐

Projected Completion Date: Decision will be signed in 11/2014

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes ☐ **No** ☒ **N/A** ☐

Projected Completion Date: In Progress

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A** ☒

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 5,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 12,500 FS,NWTF, AZSWC, MDF

Total Project Costs:

\$ 17,500

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Dan Garcia de la Cadena

Address:

Prescott National Forest

E-mail:

dgarciaadelacadena@fs.fed.us

Telephone: (928) 777-2210

Date: August 29, 2014

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Scott Poppenberger, (928) 308-2042

Project has been coordinated with: Jim Gilsdorf-Chino Valley District Ranger, Steve Sams and Scott Lerich-National Wild Turkey Federation, AZGFD personnel Scott Poppenberger

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Livestock impact on Hitt Wash riparian resulting in temporary loss of understory vegetation in the form native sedges riparian grasses and reduced water quality; loss of key habitat components for lowland leopard frog a FS Sensitive Species.

- Improve and manage wildlife habitat for a variety of native species, including species determined to be threatened, endangered, or sensitive.
- Maintain or improve soil stability, soil productivity, and watershed conditions.
- Maintain the integrity of the riparian vegetation and ecological function.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this project is to protect the riparian corridor below the Round Valley/Hitt Wash dam from livestock grazing and maintain the integrity and its ecological function. Intermittent pools of water and the understory vegetation are important for the continued existence of lowland leopard frog population which is a FS Sensitive Species found in the area to be fenced.

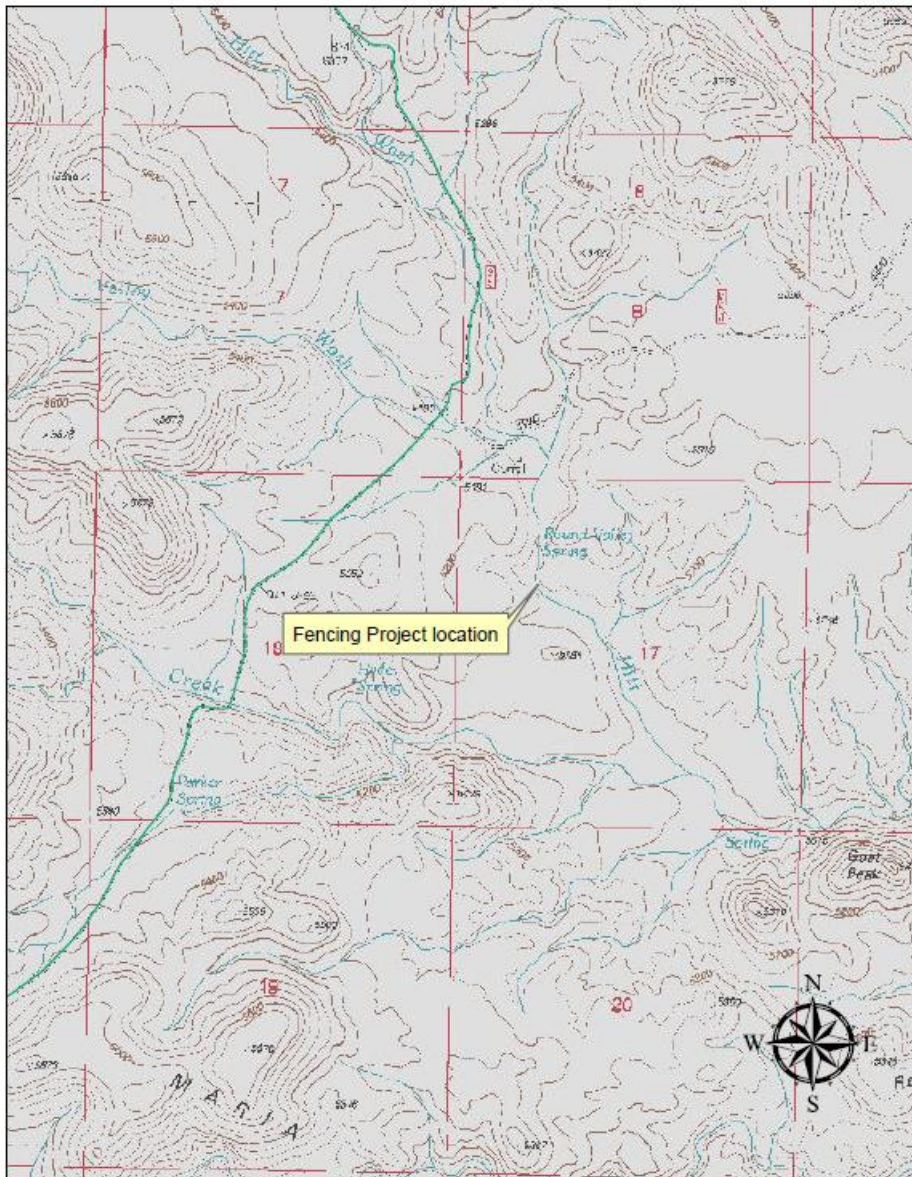
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

- Fence approximately ½ of riparian in Hitt Wash below the Round Valley/Hitt Wash dam which is located on the K Four Allotment.
- Manage for and protect the integrity of the riparian ecosystem.
- Provide wildlife habitat for a variety of key game, non-game and FS Sensitive Species.

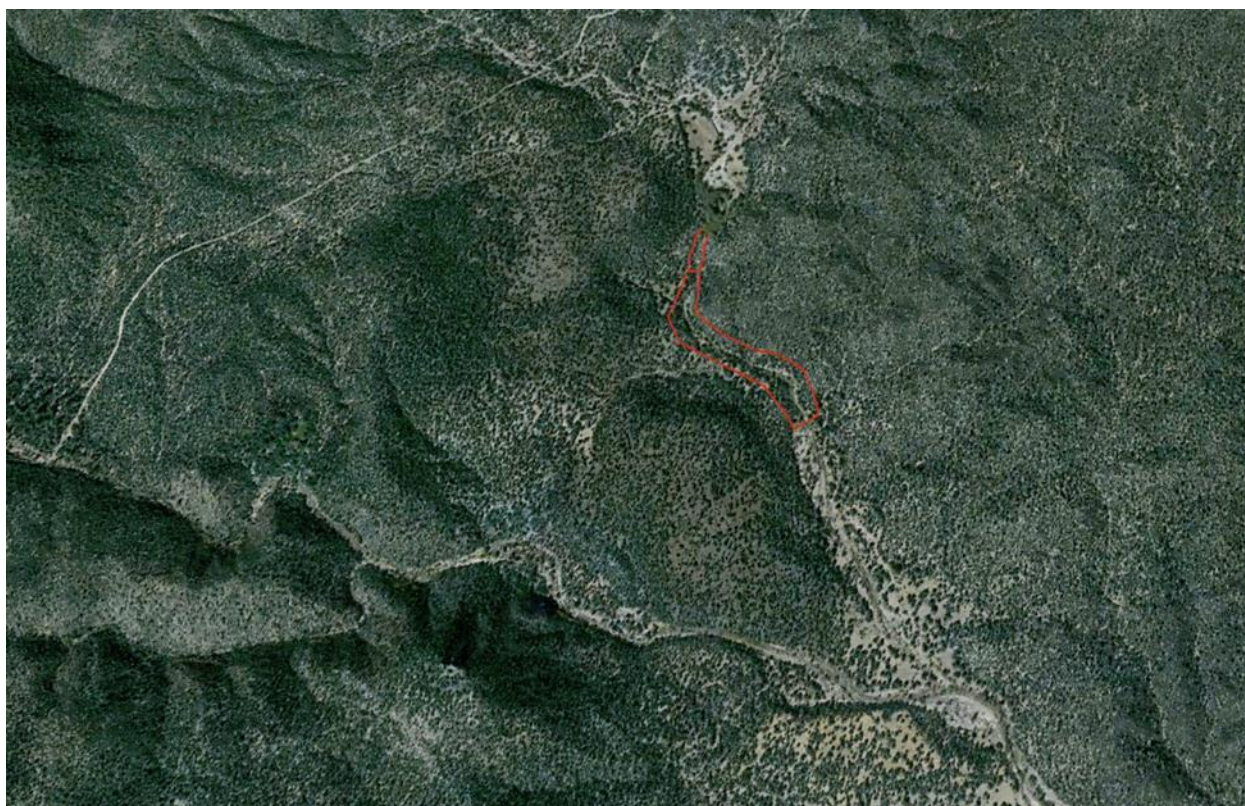
PROJECT LOCATION:

Project is located on the Chino Valley Ranger District of the Prescott NF;
NW ¼ of Section 17, T.17 N., R. 5 W.

Hitt Wash Fencing Project HPC Proposal



DGC/01 Sept 2014



Area proposed to be fenced approximately ½ mile in length.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

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*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*
YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

This riparian project is located within the Hitt Wash drainage and is surrounded by pinyon/juniper woodland at about 4,700 feet in elevation. Riparian species include scattered willow, cottonwood and Arizona ash with an understory of scattered sedges and deer grass.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Requested \$5,000 would be utilized to purchase black pipe for fence supplies.

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Cooperator	Cost-Share Dollars	HPC Funds Requested
Purchase of material and cost of installation of four wire fence to wildlife friendly FS specifications. Complete NEPA.	FS--\$2,500 NWTF--\$2,500 MDF--\$2,500 AZSWC--\$5,000	\$5,000 For 1.5 miles of Fence Material
Total: \$17,500	\$12,500	\$5,000
Cost Share Ratio: ~70:30	71.5%	28.5%

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

National Wild Turkey Federation's Scott Lerich and Steve Sams have seen the project; Arizona Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation, and Mule Deer Foundation would participate by providing volunteers and/or provide funding for materials (if needed) and contracting the installation of the fence.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[X] N/A[X]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Monitoring will be done utilizing pictures and ocular observations by the FS personnel, partners, and permittee.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Maintenance of the fence will be the responsibility of the K Four Allotment range permittee, facilitated by Forest Service range personnel.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

By project lead: Dan Garcia de la Cadena, PNF Wildlife Biologist in coordination with Scott Popenberger who would provide Department updates as needed.